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Seeds of Honey Plants

Offered by

PELLETT GARDENS

ATLANTIC, IOWA

FALL, WINTER AND SPRING
1945-1946

We try to make available in this seed list a desirable collection of nectar plants. This includes forage crops, herbs and ornamentals for bee gardens and some plants for naturalizing on waste land.



Trifolium Ambiguum in bloom.

Trifolium Ambiguum is a new perennial clover from Eastern Europe which has been named "Pellett Clover" by the Iowa Beekeepers Association.

This very unusual clover spreads rapidly from a deep rhizomous root and unlike most clovers, increases from year to year. A plot of this at Pellett Gardens was grown from root divisions set 18 inches apart in rows which were four feet apart. The plants spread rapidly and completely filled the spaces between, early the second season.

This plant blooms in June and July and the bees visit the flowers freely. It appears to be the equal of any as a honey plant. The stem resembles that of red clover while the bloom has some resemblance to alsike though larger.

Little is known as to its adaptibility to other soils but it thrives wonderfully on our grounds. A well established plant measured roots three to four feet long and a top spread of three feet.

TRIFOLIUM AMBIGUUM

Trifolium Ambiguum or Pellett Clover as described on the front page.

Since the plant is new, seed is not yet available but we are in position to offer root divisions for trial. Such divisions will transplant readily in either spring or fall.

Root divisions, 100 for \$5.00 postpaid, minimum order 100. Shipping season fall, winter and spring up to May 15. Supply limited, order early.

WHITE DUTCH CLOVER

(Trifolium repens)

White Dutch or pasture clover has long been the main dependence for a honey crop over a wide area of the Northeastern States. The plant is easily naturalized along roadsides, in pastures and waste places. Should be included in any mixture of grasses for pasture.

Seed, large packet 20c, \$1.10 per pound, postpaid.

LADINO CLOVER

Ladino clover is a giant white clover which comes from Italy and is proving very popular in many places. It makes two or three time the growth of ordinary white clover and is of particular value under irrigation or in areas with abundant rainfall and not too severe winters. Where it does well, the beekeeper can expect it to yield honey which is very similar to that produced from the common white clover.

The seed is very small. Three pounds per acre on a well prepared seedbed should be sufficient.

Seed, per packet 20c, pound \$2.50 postpaid, ten pounds upwards at \$2.25 per pound not postpaid.

CRIMSON CLOVER

(Trifolium Incarnatum)

Crimson clover is a winter annual grown from the southern corn belt south and east. It winterkills in the north when planted in the fall. Each stem is terminated by a head of scarlet or crimson flowers from which it gets its name. It is reported as especially important as a source of honey in Kentucky. It ranks high as a honey plant and is a pretty sight when in bloom.

Seed, large packet 20c, two pounds \$1.00, postpaid. Write for price on larger quantity.

STRAWBERRY CLOVER

(Trifolium fragiferum) is a new clover which is salt tolerant and will grow on such soils where other clovers will not grow. It is to be found in moist places where water stands near the surface. Indications are that it must have abundant moisture continually to prosper. If you want something new, try strawberry clover. Little is known as yet about its adaptations to various soil types in eastern localities.

Seed, large packet, 20c.

SWEET CLOVER

(Melilotus)

NOTE: We offer sweet clover only for your convenience in securing trial quantities. If you want larger quantities you can probably secure them in your localities. If not, write us and we will suggest a source of supply.

Sweet clover ranks among the best honey plants

in this country. Climatically, it is adapted to practically all the United States and southern Canada. It will thrive on a wide range of soils and is extensively used as a forage crop. There are two common varieties of the biennial sweet clover, the white blossom and the yellow blossom. The yellow blossom variety blooms earlier than the white blossom. We offer seed of the white blossom and yellow blossom mixed.

Large packet 20c, two pounds for \$1.00 postpaid.

HUBAM CLOVER is the white annual sweet clover. It is one of the best plants for honey and can be depended upon for bloom the same season when planted early. It blooms over a long season.

Seed, large packet 20c, pound 75c, two pounds \$1.25 postpaid.

MADRID SWEET CLOVER

Madrid is an outstanding variety of biennial yellow sweet clover. It is new in this country and originally came from Spain. It is outstanding for early seedling vigor and high yields of forage. It promises to be superior to the common yellow in the great plains region and throughout the corn belt. It is a heavy seed producer, maturing slightly later than the common yellow.

Seed, large packet 20c, 75c per pound, postpaid. Limit four pounds to a customer.

WAGNER PEA

(*Lathyrus silvestris wagneri*)

A forage plant developed by a German plant breeder after many years of effort. A deep rooting perennial which starts slowly and requires two or three years to become fully established. Drought resistant and succeeds on poor soils. Reported as lasting for a lifetime when once established and as providing good forage for livestock and pasture for bees. Supply limited.

Seed 20c per packet, ¼ pound \$1.00, postpaid.

SAINFOIN or ESPARCET

(*Onobrychis*)

Sainfoin is the main source of hay in some European countries. It is drought resistant and will grow on soils where the clovers do poorly. The flowers are so attractive as to make it worth growing in the flower garden as well as in the field. As a honey plant it has few equals as the bees visit the flowers freely from the time of the first opening until the last have faded. Blooms May and June. The honey is of fine quality, and that most often found in the stores of Paris, France, is from this source.

Seed, large packets 20c, \$1.00 per pound, postpaid. Write for price on larger quantity.

BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL

(*Lotus corniculatus*)

Birdsfoot trefoil is a very drought resistant forage plant which is new to American agriculture. Recent tests have indicated that it is adapted to a wide variety of soils and will succeed under varied climatic conditions. It appears to succeed on soils

where alfalfa or the clovers do poorly and indications are that the acreage will expand rapidly when farmers become familiar with it. It is especially valuable when mixed with grasses for a pasture crop.

In England it is regarded as a valuable bee plant and beemen in eastern New York report good crops of well flavored honey from it. It blooms freely in early summer and continues with a light bloom until frost. For field culture prepare as for clover or alfalfa and seed in either spring or fall. Three to six pounds of seed per acre, with other grasses.

Seed, 20c per packet, pound \$2.10 postpaid. Seed is scarce. Limit 5 pounds to a customer.

ANISE-HYSSOP or FRAGRANT GIANT

HYSSOP (*Agastache anethiodora*)

This wonder honey plant attracts the bees more consistently than any other of the 500 under observation in American Bee Journal trial garden.

Anise-hyssop is a native plant which was much used by the Indian. From it was made a beverage for use as we use tea. It was also used for flavoring other foods and from it was extracted a remedy for colds. It is strange that this plant should have been completely overlooked by our herb gardeners. It is very fragrant and has a long flowering period from June until October. The plant is perennial and worthy of a place in any ornamental garden as well as herb garden. As a bee plant it ranks very high. Pioneer settlers reported fine crops of honey from it.

Seed of anise-hyssop is very small, perhaps a half million to the pound. The seed should be planted in late fall, winter or early spring when soil is cool. If the tiny seedlings are permitted to dry out before well rooted they die. We have had best success with a well prepared seed bed and sowing the seed on top of the ground at any time in winter or very early spring. A light sprinkle of straw to protect the young plants from the sun has proved helpful.

A better way is to start the young plants in flats in the greenhouse and transplant to the open

THE BEE GARDEN

AN enthusiastic side-line beekeeper writes that he has found great satisfaction in watching the activities of his bees while visiting the flowers in his garden. Living as he does in the midst of a great industrial region he is subject to much emotional strain and feels that the relaxation which he finds in the bee garden has helped to maintain his sanity.

The stress of wartime uncertainties together with long hours at work and the highly nervous state of those with whom he is associated tends to wear him down. Watching the bees flitting from flower to flower, gathering their loads of pollen and nectar, provides the right atmosphere for relaxing tired nerves and helps him retain confidence that there is still hope for the world.

There are many lessons to be learned from the bees and association with these busy insects provides an efficient medicine for the ailing human race. No more interesting diversion can be found than the cultivation of a bee garden.

ground when two or three inches high. Set about a foot apart in the row.

Seed, 20 cents per packet, \$2.00 per ounce, ¼ pound \$5.00. Small plants, \$1.00 per dozen, postpaid.

GIANT HYSSOP

(*Agastache scrophulariaefolia*)

The giant hyssop is a perennial common to open woodlands and partially shady places which flowers in August and September. It reaches a height of five or six feet and is one of the really good bee plants.

Seed, 20c per packet.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

(*Lythrum salicaria*)

Purple loosestrife is very adaptable and will grow either on dry land or in boggy spots with its roots in water. The abundant pink flowers are very ornamental and last for weeks in mid-summer. It is the source of much dark honey in some localities.

Some beekeepers have improved local bee pasture by sowing along streams. The plant gradually spreads down stream.

The seed which is very small should be sown on top of the ground in late winter or early spring.

Seed, 20c per packet. Ounce \$1.00, postpaid. Write for price on larger quantity.

WINGSTEM OR CROWNBEARD

(*Actinomeris alternifolia*)

Wingstem is a rather coarse perennial about five feet tall with irregular yellow flowers. It never fails to find the bees working it freely when in bloom. One of the best of the native honey plants of the Mississippi Valley. Will grow in either sun or shade. Beekeepers of an earlier day called it "Golden Honey Plant." Where this plant is plentiful the beekeeper need never worry about abundant stores for winter. August bloomer. Fine for waste land. Plant in winter or early spring while ground is cool.

Seed, large packet 20c, 50c per ounce, postpaid. Write for price on larger quantity.

MOUNTAIN MINT

(*Pycnanthemum*)

The mountain mint, also known as basil, is a native of the Eastern States. It is very attractive to the bees and yields nectar freely during late summer. It is reported as the source of surplus honey in pastures and woodland borders in many localities along the Mississippi River and other Mid-Western streams. The seed is very fine and is best started in the greenhouse and later transplanted to the open. Once established the plants should stand for many years and spread slowly over the surrounding area.

Seed, 20c per packet, postpaid.

WOOD MINT

(*Blephilia ciliata*)

Wood mint is a perennial which will grow either in partial shade or open sun. With us it blooms through the month of June and the flowers swarm

with bees. The attractive flowers offer attraction as a garden plant as well as bee plant.

Seed, 20c per packet.

CHAPMAN HONEY PLANT

(Echinops spaerocephalus)

Chapman Honey Plant, also known as Globe Thistle once enjoyed a real boom among the bee-keepers. The plant is biennial and reaches a height of six feet. It blooms heavily in mid-summer. The flowers are covered with bees and are grown for ornament. This plant is easily grown and can be planted either spring or fall.

Seed, large packet 20c, pound \$1.00, postpaid.

ECHINOPS RITO.

The blue flowered Chapman Honey Plant is perennial growing to a height of about four feet on our soil. It is not nearly as tall as the other variety but is more desirable as an ornamental. It comes into bloom somewhat later and lasts into September.

Seed, large packet 20c.

MOTHERWORT

(Leonurus Cardiaca)

Motherwort is native of Asia that has been naturalized in many American localities. It is perennial and grows to a height of four or five feet. It is easily raised from seeds and once established should remain with little attention for many years.

The flowers grow in dense cluster around the stem and the bloom continues for a long period. Bees are attracted to the flowers in large numbers and it is one of the best plants to sow in waste places for bee pasture.

Seed, 20c per packet, postpaid.

CATNIP

(Nepeta Cataria)

Catnip is a famous bee plant common to our grandmother's herb gardens. It has since been widely naturalized in fence corners and unused gardens. Perennial, blooming over a long period and never failing to attract the bees. Sow the seed in early spring while the ground is cool.

Seed, 20c per packet, \$1.00 per ounce postpaid.

NEPETA MUSSINI

This is a relative of the catnip and comes from Persia so is sometimes called Persian catnip. A very fine bee plant with a long period of bloom. It is in flower for several weeks in spring and again in autumn with a scattering of bloom all summer. Long a favorite in rock gardens and worthy of more attention on the part of the beekeeper.

Seed, 20c per packet.

PEA TREE

(Caragana arborescens)

The pea tree is a very hardy shrub or small tree which comes from Siberia. It is drought resistant and is much used for hedge in the Dakotas and in western Canada. It is a free bloomer and the pea-

like blossoms yield an abundant supply of well flavored honey in spring. It grows readily from seed.

Seed, large packet 20c, ¼ pound \$1.00, postpaid.

GARDEN SAGE

(*Salvia officinalis*)

The garden sage has been cultivated for centuries for its aromatic leaves which are used in flavoring foods. It is a long lived perennial and should be included in every garden. The flowers are attractive to bees and a high quality honey is gathered from garden sage.

Seed, 20c per packet, postpaid.

SALVIA SUPERBA

This is a strong growing sage reaching a height of about three feet and blooming intermittently all season. It blooms very freely in May and June and again in September with some flowers all summer. It is usually swarming with bees. Perennial

Seed, 20c per packet, postpaid.

SALVIA VIRGATA

Salvia virgata is a strong growing perennial reaching a height of three or four feet, with light blue flowers. It is native to Europe and the Orient. It blooms freely in mid-summer and is much visited by the bees. It is of easy culture and may well be included in any ornamental garden as well as bee pasture.

Seed, 20c cents per packet, postpaid.

BULGARIAN SAGE

(*Salvia jurisica*)

This low growing perennial sage has attractive foliage as well as flowers to hold the interest of the gardener. It blooms freely for several weeks and is very attractive as a bee plant. Perennial.

Seed, 20c per packet.

SALVIA PRATENSIS.

This is the first of the sages to bloom in our garden and it provides good bee pasture for several weeks in early spring when forage is scarce. It blooms very freely and is always full of bees. It is of easy culture and one of the best plants for naturalizing along roadsides and in waste places. Perennial.

Seed, 20c per packet.

MARJORAM

(*Origanum vulgare*)

Marjoram is a European plant, cultivated in gardens which naturalizes readily under right conditions in this country. It is a favorite of the honey bee and in a few localities in eastern states has become sufficiently common to enable the bees to secure considerable fine quality honey from it. The plant is perennial and prefers limestone soils. Blooms in the fall.

Seed, 20c per packet.

FIGWORT

(*Scrophularia marilandica*)

This plant was widely planted by name of Simpson's Honey Plant by the beekeepers of days gone by. It is a tall growing plant from three to six feet high which has long been famous for its rich

store of nectar for the bees. The flowers are small but abundant and rich in honey.

It will grow in either sun or shade and is often found growing wild in wooded areas. Fall bloomer.

Seed, 20c per paskett

WILD INDIGO

Wild indigo is a perennial native to the mid-west prairies which is worthy of much more common cultivation. Dozens of stalks arise from a single root in a well established plant and often reach a height of three feet with large clusters of blue pea-like flowers. Very attractive to the bees.

Seed, 20c per packet, postpaid.

HOREHOUND

(Marrubium vulgare)

Horehound is a well known herb which comes from Eurasia and has become naturalized over parts of the United States. It blooms from July to September and the flowers attract many bees. It is the source of much dark honey in some localities.

Seed, 20c per packet, postpaid.

ASTER

The wild asters are the last source of nectar in many localities. We offer a mixture of several of the most ornamental varieties including New England aster, smooth aster and arrow leaf aster. All are worthy of a place in any garden. Plant in early spring while the ground is cool. Perennial.

Seed, 20c per packet, postpaid.

BURNET

(Sanguisorbia minor)

This hardy perennial native to Eurasia is sometimes grown in the flower garden as an ornamental, in the vegetable garden as a salad plant and in the field as a forage crop. It is very drought resistant and easily grown. It is very attractive to the bees, blooming in midsummer for several weeks, but apparently is sought mostly for pollen.

Seed, large packet 20c, postpaid.

BORAGE

(Borago officinalis)

Borage has long been famous as a bee plant and has been much planted in European honey plant gardens. It is an annual native to Europe and North Africa.

Although the honey is dark and not of the best quality the bees visit the flowers so freely that it should be included in every extensive collection of honey plants. It is a hardy plant blooming for a long period and seed should be planted in early spring where the plant is to grow.

Seed, 20c per packet, postpaid.

DRAGONHEAD

(Dracocephalum moldivici)

An annual of the mint family which is of easy culture and reseeds readily. Very attractive to the bees.

Seed, 20c per packet, postpaid.

MIGNONETTE

(Reseda odorata)

Mignonette has long been a favorite with those who have bee gardens. It is an annual which comes from North Africa and has been widely distributed in ornamental gardens. The bloom is very fragrant. Some very extravagant claims have been made as to the amount of honey to be secured from this source.

While there is no proof that such yields can be secured the flowers are very attractive to the bees and it seems probable that if enough of it were available good crops might be harvested. Try it in your garden.

Seed, large packet 20c ounce 75c, postpaid.

SAFFLOWER

Safflower is a thistle-like plant reaching a height of about three feet. The large yellow flowers are of interest in the garden for it is cultivated principally as a source of drying oil in demand by the paint and varnish industry. Bees visit the flowers freely but no information is available as to its probable value as a source of honey. Annual.

Seed, 20c per packet, postpaid.

CALIFORNIA POPPY

(*Escholtzia californica*)

The California poppy is a familiar plant to those who have visited the West Coast in springtime. Millions of them may have been seen in bloom along the roadsides and in waste places.

In the East it is grown as an annual. It reseeds freely and is easily grown in gardens or naturalized in sunny situations. The bees visit the flowers in large numbers for pollen. It blooms over a long period.

Seed, large packet 20c, ounce 75c, postpaid.

PHACELIA

The fiddle neck phacelia, (***Phacelia tenacetifolia***) is native to California but is widely grown in European gardens as a honey plant. In Germany it is also grown to some extent for forage and is used for silage. It is a famous bee plant and is one of the most commonly grown where gardens have been planted especially for the bees.

It is an annual of easy culture and the flowers are covered with bees from morning till night. It reaches a height of about two feet with blueish or pink flowers.

Seed, 20c per packet, postpaid.

PRICKLY POPPY

(*Argemone*)

The white prickly poppy is a native to the southwest and is a common sight from Kansas to Texas. It is an annual of easy culture and with large white flowers for a long time in summer. The bees are much attracted to this plant for pollen.

Seed, 20c per packet, postpaid.

Seed of any of the above, 20c per packet, or six packets for for \$1.00. Any fifteen packets for \$2.00. Postpaid.

FLOWERS OF THE WILD by Frank C. Pellett. A book about wild flowers based on thirty years experience with several hundred species. More than 100 photographs and four color plates illustrate the text. Here will be found useful information for insuring success with native plants. Cloth binding, 168 pages. \$1.00 per copy, postpaid.

A LIVING FROM BEES by Frank C. Pellett. A cloth bound book of 304 pages, well illustrated which as its title suggests outlines proved methods of making a living from bees. The fundamentals of of honey production are explained with reasons for every necessary manipulation.

Conditions under which beekeeping is practical as an exclusive business and when it is better to be followed as a sideline are discussed at length. \$2.25, postpaid.

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